



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GRAND JURY RETURNS INDICTMENTS

Topeka, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that five individuals were indicted on Wednesday, August 13, 2003, by a federal grand jury in Topeka, Kansas. Those indicted include:

- ! **Billy Mike Earl Hood**, 30, and **Tiffany Stalnaker**, 23, both from Bastrop, Texas, both currently in custody, are each charged with possessing counterfeit \$20 bills. Stalnaker is also charged with attempting to pass a counterfeit \$20 bill in Hutchinson, Kansas, on August 7, 2003.

The indictment alleges that on August 7, 2003, Stalnaker attempted to purchase a bath towel with a counterfeit \$20 bill in Hutchinson, Kansas, and also possessed fourteen counterfeit bills in her purse. The indictment further alleges that on August 8, 2003, Hood possessed nineteen counterfeit \$20 bills that were hidden in a magazine and tucked into the frame of a travel trailer that Hood occupied.

If convicted, each face a maximum of twenty years in federal prison without parole. The case was investigated by the U.S. Secret Service and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Alan Metzger.

THREE CHARGED UNDER PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS - A NATIONAL INITIATIVE TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE AND MAKE OUR COMMUNITIES SAFER

- ! **Eric D. Richardson**, 46, Wichita, Kansas, currently in custody, is charged with one count of possessing a sawed-off shotgun that was not registered to him in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record and one count of possessing a sawed-off shotgun without a serial number, both on August 6, 2003, in Sedgwick County, Kansas.

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If convicted, Richardson faces a maximum of ten years in federal prison without parole. The case was investigated by the Wichita Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Matt Treaster.

! **Howard Wayne Taylor, Jr.**, 24, Topeka, Kansas, is charged with being a felon in possession of a semi-automatic pistol on July 11, 2003, in Topeka, Kansas.

If convicted, Taylor faces a maximum of ten years in federal prison without parole. The case was investigated by the Topeka Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Task Force.

! **Douglas Anthony Martin**, 22, Topeka, Kansas, is charged with one count of possessing a sawed-off shotgun that was not registered to him in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record; one count of being an unlawful user of methamphetamine and marijuana in possession of a sawed-off shotgun; and one count of possession with the intent to distribute approximately 24 grams (approximately .85 ounce) of methamphetamine, all on June 30, 2003, in Topeka, Kansas.

If convicted, Martin faces a maximum of ten years in federal prison, without parole, on the gun charges and a maximum of twenty years for possession with the intent to distribute methamphetamine. The case was investigated by the Topeka Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Task Force.

As in any criminal case, a person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The Indictments filed merely contain allegations of criminal conduct.